

Judge McLeod to-day gave a judgment on the request of George S. Cushing to have the Cushing Pulp Mill put in liquidation. The case is a mixed-up one. In 1901 the mill gave a mortgage for \$200,000 to the Eastern Trust Company, and upwards of \$100,000 is now due on interest. Of this, George S. Cushing, who was the first manager of the mill, and a heavy stockholder, is entitled to about \$5,000 of this interest. Recently, on the part of the trust company and some of the bondholders, an order was secured for the sale of the property on July 15th. Mr. Cushing then began his proceedings, and the interests opposed to him opposed the proceedings on the ground that the mill is now working at a good profit, and has good prospects of paying off its liabilities. Judge McLeod says this would be good ground for refusing the request of Mr. Cushing were it not that the parties opposing Mr. Cushing had obtained the order for the sale of the mill and had advertised it only in a religious weekly paper, which would not be read by many probable purchasers. He decided that a winding-up order should be granted, but would delay issuing it pending an appeal to the full court.

The town of Dalhousie has decided to engage an engineer to look into the question of water, sewerage and electric light, and to furnish estimates on the cost of plants for these necessary works. The city council of Fredericton has definitely decided in favor of a sewerage system, and it is expected that tenders for the work will soon be called.

The St. John Street Railway is paying a dividend of 3 per cent. The company has just completed and opened for traffic a new loop that will enable them to better serve the eastern and southern sections of the city.

Moncton merchants have purchased in Halifax a steamer, the "Wilfrid C," which is to run between Moncton and points on the Petitcodiac river, going as far as Shulee and Apple river.

Dr. J. E. March, quarantine officer at St. John, has worked out plans for a new marine engine from which he expects great things. He has experimented with his device and a five horsepower gasoline motor, and has been able to run it with gas generated from coal burned in a small furnace. The gas gives much greater power than would steam generated by the same quantity of coal. The test is reported to have been most satisfactory, and a large engine will be built. If the plan works out successfully, a new motive power will be available. It is considered significant that Andrew Allen, at a dinner in St. John last winter, predicted that within ten years ships would be crossing the Atlantic driven by gas generated on board.

The Provincial Government has appointed Gilmor Brown, C.E., to go over the Central Railway running from Norton, on the I.C.R., to Chipman, and decide on the feasibility of a number of improvements suggested by Senator King and George McAvity, commissioners appointed by the Government to look into the needs of the road. This line may form part of the Grand Trunk Pacific connection from Chipman to St. John.

Great interest is now being aroused in New Brunswick over the probable route of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and a strong effort is being made to direct it down the St. John Valley. It is said a better grade has been secured through the centre of the Province, and that it will go that way. A prominent lumberman told your correspondent that if the line is built through the centre of New Brunswick, then much of the lumber business of the north shore will be diverted to St. John, the operators putting mills in the woods and sending their manufactured product to St. John, where there is an all-the-year-round open port, while the north shore ports are open in summer only.

St. John, N.B., June 13th, 1905.

SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

The Sovereign is one of the younger banks, which is to be congratulated upon the highly satisfactory progress it has already made. In spite of the severity of last winter and the not particularly good crops in Ontario last season, its deposits show an increase since last year of \$2,624,751, while its note circulation increased by \$106,325. A feature which may well be deemed worthy of remark is the fact that out of the profits \$50,000 has been added to reserve fund, though this is only the

third year of the bank's existence. The general manager in his address called attention to the condition of its assets. These now amount to \$11,670,000, and of this sum \$4,750,000 is immediately available. The announcement is made of an increase in capital of \$325,000, a step rendered necessary in order to keep pace with the bank's circulation. As evidence of the full confidence of the shareholders in the management, it may be mentioned that, in addition to their allotments, they applied for as much more of the new stock, and that, though applications were not due until June 15th, no less than \$125,000 was actually received in cash at date of the annual meeting on the 13th inst., making the paid-up capital \$1,400,000. The general manager stated in his address that the depositors in the bank numbered 26,725, and that its borrowing customers numbered 6,185, which means that the average amount loaned to each customer is only about \$1,400. A distribution of this kind without a doubt serves to bring all possible losses to a minimum, and is an evidence of the prudence and conservatism which has distinguished the management. The prosperity and general conditions of the bank would certainly appear to warrant the announced increase of dividend. It may be mentioned that in the first year, no dividend at all was paid, the management having wisely considered it better to use profits in paying off the expense of organization and in strengthening the bank. This is a proceeding practically unique under the circumstances in banking in this country. Last year 5 per cent. was paid, and now the dividend stands at 6 per cent. The enterprising methods of the general manager certainly bring "results" in no mean measure.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The figures presented at the annual meeting of this old-established London company, held on the 26th ult., amply show that its growth and prosperity continue as markedly as ever. Fire and burglary premiums, after reinsurances are deducted, increased from \$2,376,645, in 1903, to \$2,539,325 last year. The premium reserve fund, to cover unexpired policies, stands at \$1,118,750, and the fire general reserve fund at \$2,155,000, or an aggregate fund, with which to meet fire claims, of \$3,273,750. The number of life policies held in the company on 31st December last was 12,073, assuring the sum of \$41,072,800, including bonuses. The Guardian is noted for its conservative management, and has always followed the wise policy of building up ample reserve funds from which to meet any possible contingency. That this course has been successfully followed is evidenced by the present high position of the company, whose assets now stand at \$26,149,320, while its annual income is over \$4,700,000. It is with pleasure we note the manner in which the Canadian end of the business is being enlarged, under the able managementship of Mr. H. M. Lambert.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

The New York Life announces that its paid-for business during the first five months of 1905 has been \$148,244,000, a gain of \$6,017,000 over the corresponding period last year.

The correspondent of the Monetary Times in Montreal calls attention to the condition of affairs of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, which, he says, continues to cause uneasiness among Canadian policy-holders. Would it not, he suggests, be advisable for the Insurance Department of the Federal Government to look into the matter on behalf of the 11,400 policy-holders in Canada, whose total insurance amounts to \$23,000,000? The only protection Canadian policy-holders have at present is a deposit of \$1,840,000. Any steps thus taken by the Federal authorities would at least assure the people that their interests are being considered.

A distinguishing feature of French economics, says the Review, is the steady withdrawal of money from the savings banks, showing a want of confidence in the State on the one hand, or, it may be on the other, an increase of belief in the relative advantages of life assurance. Let us hope it is the latter. Yet the purchase of annuities does not seem to commend itself more than usual to the French people, nor does the